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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS
U.S. praises General Ozkok - Milliyet
Iran key country in U.S.-Turkey relations - Milliyet
Bush: Who is supposed to find WMD? - Sabah
Parliament sends Armenian genocide letter to Congress - Hurriyet
Government will send EU package to Sezer unchanged - Turkiye
Israel plans total withdrawal from Palestine - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS
U.S. concerned that Iraqi resistance might turn into freedom fight - Yeni Safak
Americans fear 'Vietnam syndrome' in Iraq - Radikal
Invaders' casualties increasing in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Pentagon used 5,842 as guinea pigs between 1962-1973 - Yeni Safak
Pentagon tested chemicals on 6,000 Americans - Zaman
Sharon, Abbas put up show of compromise - Radikal
Gul expects full EU membership in 2010 - Zaman
Afghan people want Taliban - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Washington praises Gen. Ozkok: The Washington Administration has sent a letter to Chief of Staff General Ozkok, lauding the strong leadership displayed by the top commander of Turkey's military, "Milliyet" reports. Milliyet regards the letter as a 'correction' to the controversial remarks by Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz, who blamed the Turkish military for failing to demonstrate strong leadership during the Iraqi campaign.

Government prepares new EU reform package: The AKP government is busy drafting a 7th package of EU harmonization laws, and has asked for advice from the military about changes to the structure of the National Security Council (NSC). The government wants to change the NSC regulation to enable the political leadership to appoint a civilian to the post of NSC secretary general.

Survey: Civilians more liberal than officials: "Radikal" gives details of a survey carried out by academics on 3,060 civilians and some members of Turkey's judiciary in 15 Turkish provinces. 73 percent of Turks believe that violations of human rights are widespread in Turkey, while only 48 percent of the judiciary agree. 89 percent of civilians and 73 percent of judiciary members think that freedom of expression should not be restricted. 54 percent of Turks and 62 percent of the judiciary are against education in Kurdish. 74 percent of civilians and 73 percent of judiciary members support Turkey's EU membership. Radikal comments that the survey results demonstrate that the judiciary is 'lagging behind' the Turkish public with regard to human rights and EU issues.

Lawmakers send 'Genocide' letter to U.S. Congress: Ruling AKP and opposition CHP parliamentarians have sent a letter to U.S. Congressmen expressing 'deep concern' about a possible U.S. endorsement of Armenian 'genocide' claims,

which lack historical support, "Hurriyet" reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION: IRAQ

"Problems for the U.S"

Taha Akyol opined in mass appeal Milliyet (7/2):

"Other than the Kurds, no one seems to be happy with the Americans in Iraq. It is obvious that an anti-American regime will be established immediately when the US turns over the administration to the true representatives elected by the Iraqi people. Was this the reason George Bush went to war?! The reaction of the masses increases in Iraq as the US extends its stay in its attempt to establish stability. Unfortunately, the US did not fully understand the 1,400-year tradition of Shiite opposition, and could not foresee the reaction of the Iraqi people. The US had wrongly expected to be welcomed with flowers! The US, recalling the countless Shiite rebellions against Saddam, US believed the Shiites would support the occupation. The fact that the US has asked for troops from Turkey and Pakistan for Iraq does not mean that the US will be met with flowers by those two countries either. Of course, our relations with the US are highly important, and we cannot ignore Iraq. However, Turkey should avoid the being part of a 'police force' against Iraq, and should try to convince the US to shape developments for Iraq's benefit."

"Now it is understood who needs whom"

Semih Idiz comments in mass appeal Aksam (7/2):

"If Joseph Biden, the well know Democrat from Delaware, is talking about Turkey, you can believe me that there is no good that can come from that! Biden is also a respected member of the Senate Foreign Relations committee and, until a short time ago, he never missed the chance to embrace an anti-Turkish cause. After visiting the region with a group of congressmen, Biden suggested that some countries, including Turkey, should assume greater responsibilities in Iraq. Moreover, he called for Turkish troops to 'guard the street corners' in Baghdad! Obviously, this is related to the swamp the US is sinking into in Iraq. Let me phrase this differently: the US has begun to understand that not only France and Germany, but also Turkey, should play a role in Iraq. What should Turkey do in this situation? In my opinion, the worst thing for us would be to jump into the middle of this fire in order to make up with the US. We have to evaluate the issue in its real dimensions, meaning that we should not 'pick the US chestnuts out of the fire.' If the US fully realizes the Iraqi reality and decides to pass this operation to the UN, then we should consider a serious role. Otherwise, there is no point in throwing our own troops into unknown dangers just to save the Americans. Before the war, I consistently told the Americans: 'Obviously you will win this war. That is definite. But have you ever thought about the aftermath?!' Obviously, they did not."

PEARSON